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PATENT

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February 11, 2002
DateStephanie Jansen
Stephanie Jansen

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Jason B. Elledge

Attorney Docket No.: 500188.02

Serial No. : 09/616,794

Group Art Unit : 3723

Filed : July 14, 2000

Examiner : Willie Berry, Jr.

Title : APPARATUS FOR IN-SITU OPTICAL ENDPOINTING ON WEB-FORMAT
PLANARIZING MACHINES IN MECHANICAL OR CHEMICAL-MECHANICAL
PLANARIZATION OF MICROELECTRONIC-DEVICE SUBSTRATE ASSEMBLIES
AND METHODS FOR MAKING AND USING SAME

Commissioner of Patents
Washington, DC 20231

AMENDMENT

Sir:

Applicant acknowledges receipt of the Office Action dated December 31, 2001.

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 41, 42, 44, and 45, amend claims 40 and 43, and add new claims 46-79 as follows:

40. (Amended) A method of endpointing mechanical or chemical-mechanical planarization processing of microelectronic-device substrate assemblies, comprising:

initially passing a light beam from an illumination site in a table through a first optically transmissive view site located at first area within an elongated slot in a polishing pad to at least periodically impinge a first substrate assembly with the light beam and optically sense a surface condition of the first substrate assembly;